



NUMBER 99 NEWS-KEY May 31, 1941

Campaign Among Armenian Fascists .....	page 1
Terrorism in U.S.A. ....	page 2
Banta Objects .....	page 3
Word from Criscuolo .....	page 4

100 E. 42nd St., New York  
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Number 99

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### ARMENIAN FASCISTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN IN U. S.

#### Intensified Efforts in this Country Result from Nazi-Inspired Tashnag Activity in Near East

The Hour learns that the U. S. branch of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, a fascist terrorist organization, is intensifying its efforts in this country, as a result of the situation which has developed within the last few weeks in the Near East.

Nazi-inspired Armenian fifth column activity is under way in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Responsibility for these subversive operations has been delegated by the Nazis to the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. At present Alexander Khadissian and Avedis Aharanian, Federation chiefs, maintain headquarters in Berlin and work directly under the supervision of the Third Reich. The Nazis find this "nationalist" organization extremely useful because it is strongly rooted, despite intense opposition, among the 150,000 Armenians in Syria, Iraq and Iran, and because it exercises considerable influence in Turkey.

In the United States, where approximately 140,000 Armenians reside, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation has devoted itself to the same pro-Nazi program it supports in Europe and Asia. In its present campaign the U. S. branch of the Federation is seeking to enlist sympathy and support for the overseas work of the parent organization.

#### Background of A. R. F.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation, usually referred to as the Tashnags (or Dashnags), was first organized in 1890 as a patriotic movement to free Armenians from Turkish oppression. In 1918, the Tashnags headed the independent Republic of Armenia; but by this time Tashnag leadership had degenerated and become corrupt. Their organization, split by rivalries, began to disintegrate; and the Armenian people ousted them from power. Since then the Tashnags have schemed tirelessly to regain their political influence among the Armenians, most of whom are now included in the Armenian Soviet Republic.

When Hitler became Fuehrer in Germany, the Tashnags offered him their services, in exchange for the guarantee that he would place them in power when he invaded the Armenian Republic. In this way began an intimate collaboration between the Nazis and the Tashnags. Even Hitler must have been impressed with the gangster methods of his new allies.

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Because of the ruthlessness of their tactics, the Tashnags have managed to win the reputation of being the world's outstanding terrorists.

#### Work in U. S. A.

The Tashnags maintain their U. S. headquarters in Boston at 212 Stuart Street. They have branch offices in other cities. Their New York address is the Armenian Garo Club, 366 Third Avenue. They publish two newspapers in this country: an Armenian-language daily, Hairenik, which is edited by Reuben Darbinian; and a weekly in English, Hairenik Weekly, edited by James Mandalian.

Like their brothers abroad, U. S. Tashnag members have gained considerable notoriety from their terroristic exploits. Their most publicized feat was the assassination of Archbishop Leon Tourian, Primate of the Armenian Church in America. Nine Tashnags stabbed him to death while he was celebrating mass on December 24, 1933, in New York City. After the killing, the press of the A. R. F. exonerated its "blameless comrades," two of whom were convicted of first degree murder and the other seven of first degree manslaughter. The A. R. F. simply explained that the Archbishop was an agent of the OGPU.

Tashnag members have made little attempt to conceal their belief in the use of violence and terror as a political weapon. In Episodes From the Activities of the ARF, a book printed by the Hairenik Press, instructions are given for the most efficient employment of terrorism as an instrument of party policy. The cover of this book bears the Tashnag emblem which prominently features a dagger. Numerous "political" killings have been carried out by members of the Tashnags, who in their writings casually discuss the fine art of assassination as a political expedient.

#### Propaganda Methods

Tashnag propaganda in the United States has closely paralleled that of Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels. Jew-baiting is a favorite pastime. A typical passage in Hairenik Daily states:

"All Jewish international and world-citizenship movements serve as means, as a propaganda for the continuation of the Jewish race. As the British use battleships to occupy lands, in this same way the Jew uses internationalism or communism as a weapon."

The same newspaper, after describing the "spiritual defeatism" of the Weimar Republic, remarks:

"Then came Hitler after Herculean struggles. He spoke to the racial heartstrings of the Germans, opened the fountain of his natural genius ... Now there is a Germany, strong, united, aggressive, proud and self-reliant ... Berlin is the only barricade against the cholera known as Bolshevism ... At no period since the World War had Berlin conducted so



realistic, well organized and planned policy as now, since Hitler's assumption to power. At no time the German thought had been so explicit, clear and rich as now."

#### Tashnag Co-Workers

The Tashnags cooperate closely with other Fifth Column groups in the United States. Their newspapers have consistently supported the efforts of pro-Nazi White Russians. Favorable publicity has been given to fascist Italians. An intimate contact was maintained between the Tashnags and the Christian Mobilizers by Edward C. Adrian. Adrian was former editor of the fascist monthly, The Christian Mobilizer. He was also a key member of the Tashnags and, writing under the name of Edward Masgalajian, was a regular contributor to Hairenik Weekly.

The Tashnags have had a particularly friendly relationship with the ODNU, fascist Ukrainian Organization for the Rebirth of the Ukraine, which operates under the supervision of the Intelligence Department of the German War Office. On March 15, 1938, The Nationalist, official ODNU organ, extended an invitation to the "Armenian revolutionaries" to "coordinate their activities with the Ukrainian nationalists." The article, written by Nicholas Davyskyb, ODNU leader and secretary of the Ukrainian Nationalist Association, stated: "... the ODNU has established a close collaboration with the Armenian Nationalists who are very glad to cooperate with us." The same issue of The Nationalist carried an essay by James Mandalian, editor of Hairenik Weekly. The "close collaboration" has not lapsed. Only last month James Mandalian was guest speaker at a gathering of Ukrainian-Americans in Boston, and he was introduced to the audience by none other than Nicholas Davyskyb.

Employing a tactic familiar to the ODNU and other fascist organizations, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation pretends it is the spokesman for the Armenian-American community. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Federation represents only a small minority among the Armenians in the United States. The vast majority, who are strongly pro-democratic, regard the Tashnags with bitter contempt and have conducted a relentless fight against their insidious influence.

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#### CRISCUOLO ON FASCISM

Luigi Criscuolo, prominent Italian investment banker located at 50 Broad Street, New York City, has written to The Hour, strenuously objecting to an article which appeared in this publication. The article was entitled "U. S. Spokesman for Mussolini." Its subject was Luigi Criscuolo.

In his letter, Criscuolo declares, "I do not represent the Italian Government, nor have I ever been retained by the Italian Government or any instrumentality of the Italian Government, or by any Italian corporation or person or society, at any time or in any capacity ... I am not a

Fascist, have never been a Fascist, nor have I been identified with Fascist organizations."

Criscuolo corrects our statement that he had been decorated by Mussolini in 1931 with the Constantin Order of St. George. He says, "The Knighthood in the Constantin Order of St. George ... was conferred upon me by His Royal Highness late Prince Alfonso of Bourbon, Count of Caserta, heir to the throne of the Kingdom of Naples ..."

Whether or not Luigi Criscuolo is a fascist can be best determined by his own statements and deeds. Again and again he has publicly come to the defense of Mussolini. He says he is not in agreement with everything Il Duce has done but adds, "Mussolini and Fascism have had a revitalizing effect upon the Italian people." Regarding this revitalization, Criscuolo remarks:

"He gave them castor oil, he had them beaten up, perhaps he had them assassinated. At the same time he brought fire into the hearts of the Italian youth and he even rejuvenated the old men. ... There was a lot of stage-play in everything he did. Nevertheless, not one man in the history of modern Italy has done more to spur on the Italian people as this self-same Benito Mussolini. So, one thing that Fascism has accomplished is giving backbone to the Italian people, and to the Italian youth in particular. It has made them be proud of their country and of their personal dignity in the face of the world."

In connection with Italy's imperialist program he states: "The Ethiopian war was justified by historical precedent," and, "What Italy did to improve Ethiopia since 1936 would have cast shame on what Britain has done in any of her colonies for her own subject natives."

Luigi Criscuolo has consistently condoned the fascist activities of his friend, Generoso Pope, in public letters in the New York press. According to his own admission, he was for a time manager and financial supporter of *L'Impero*, a rabidly anti-democratic magazine which flaunted the fascist emblem and was edited by Chevalier Macaluso, now registered as an agent for the Italian Government. He was instrumental in floating Italian loans in this country. Concerning Charles A. Lindbergh, current darling of the U. S. fascists, Criscuolo said in June 1940: "I am for Colonel Lindbergh for President, and I wonder how many really patriotic Americans will join in spreading that cry throughout the land."

If Luigi Criscuolo believes he is not a fascist, The Hour wonders what his definition of a fascist can be.

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